

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 954
A BILL FOR RELATING TO A MAJOR DISASTER RESERVE TRUST FUND

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

BY

MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT G. F. LEE
DIRECTOR OF CIVIL DEFENSE

February 12, 2009

Chair Hanohano and Committee Members:

I am Major General Bob Lee, Director of Civil Defense, State Department of Defense. I am providing testimony in support of House Bill 954 which creates a major disaster reserve trust fund for the purpose of holding federal fund reimbursements that will not be subject to lapsing.

Too frequently federal reimbursements for eligible disaster repair projects and for disaster management costs are not received by the Department of Defense in the fiscal year these were expended. When this condition occurs, federal funds are returned to the general fund and cannot be held under the State Major Disaster Fund (HRS Chapter 127-11). Additionally, unused State general funds appropriated for the State Major Disaster Fund lapse at the end of the fiscal year.

The proposed bill will therefore provide the Department of Defense an improved funding capability to respond and to recover from emergencies and disasters.

We recommend that you amend line 18 of the bill by deleting reference to Chapter 103D. That reference is not required as procurement code exemptions are provided under HRS Chapter 128.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill. Are there any questions?

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY GEORGINA K. KAWAMURA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 954

February 12, 2009

RELATING TO A MAJOR DISASTER RESERVE TRUST FUND

House Bill No. 954 creates the Major Disaster Reserve Trust Fund to hold federal fund reimbursements from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The funds held in the Major Disaster Reserve Trust Fund, including principal and any income accrued thereon, may be expended under the same circumstances and for the same purposes as funds pursuant to Section 127.11, Hawaii Revised Statutes. This bill makes no other appropriation to fund the program, which this bill establishes upon its approval.

We are opposed to this bill. Section 162 of Act 213, SLH 2007, as amended by Act 158, SLH 2008, provides the Governor with the authority to transfer savings or unrequired balances as may be available from the appropriated funds of any program in Act 213, SLH 2007, as amended by Act 158, SLH 2008, to cope with the effects of natural disasters or other unforeseen emergencies, making the passage of this bill unnecessary.